

America, where he remained two years, travelling through the United States, and also the backwoods, collecting specimens of natural history, and at the same time earning his living by his trade of a carpenter, &c. Upon his return to England he went to Birmingham, and there spent the remainder of his life, the last twenty years of which he practised as an architect and surveyor. Always of a profoundly studious turn of mind, he early became deeply interested in the science of astronomy, and soon made himself conversant with that and other kindred physical sciences.

His meteorological observations were daily recorded, and published periodically in the local newspapers. In 1865 he was elected a member of the British Meteorological Society, and he had the honour of reading a paper before the British Association, at their meeting in Birmingham in 1865, on "The Meteorology of Birmingham," being the results of personal observations extending over a period of twelve years, viz. from 1853 to 1864 inclusive.

He was indefatigable in his efforts to spread scientific and useful knowledge amongst those around him, and by popular lectures, and the formation of science classes, he laid the foundation of that well-known and valuable establishment, the Bloomsbury Institution, where educational work is still carried on in connection with other useful agencies. As a public lecturer on astronomy, geology, meteorology, physiology, and various other subjects, Mr. Smith was deservedly popular, and his removal has caused a gap which it will be difficult to fill up.

His decease occurred after a short illness on December 23, 1885, and his loss is deeply felt and regretted by all who were connected with him.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on June 13, 1862.

EDWIN STORY was educated at Shrewsbury School and St. John's College, Cambridge. He was a great lover of science, and became a member of the Linnæan, Geological, Historical, and Royal Geographical Societies. His favourite recreation from sterner mental study was the indulgence of poetical composition, particularly of classical poetry, in which he delighted and excelled.

Mr. Story was essentially of a retiring disposition; he led a studious and well-spent life, which was terminated by paralysis on February 1, 1886.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society November 8, 1867.

CHARLES GEORGE TALMAGE was born at Greenwich on November 12, 1840. He was educated at a proprietary school there, and afterwards studied mathematics under a private tutor.

Mr. Talmage commenced his astronomical career in the year 1856, at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, where he remained for about four years. In 1860 he joined Mr. Hind as assistant

at Mr. Bishop's Observatory in the Regent's Park. At this time Mr. Talmage was in very delicate health, and it was considered necessary for him to sojourn in a warmer climate; he therefore was compelled to leave Mr. Bishop's Observatory, and subsequently accepted an appointment as private secretary to the late Mr. R. Coventry, who was then residing at Nice. There Mr. Talmage devoted himself to double star observations, and undertook a re-examination of Admiral Smyth's Bedford Catalogue. Four years' residence in the south of France so far restored him to health as to enable him to return to England, where he again joined Mr. Hind for a short time at the Observatory, which Mr. Bishop had removed from the Regent's Park to Twickenham.

In 1865 Mr. Talmage was appointed Director of the private Observatory of Mr. J. Gurney Barclay at Leyton, which appointment he held up to the time of his death. Here he devoted the fine 10-inch Cooke refractor almost exclusively to double star work. Most of his excellent observations have been published in the volumes of the "*Leyton Astronomical Observations*," and others will be found in the volumes of the *Monthly Notices*. (It is to be regretted that with Mr. Talmage's death the work of the Leyton Observatory has closed, as Mr. Barclay has since then presented the large equatoreal to the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, and the Transit circle to the Oxford University Observatory.)

In 1870 Mr. Talmage went out in the "*Urgent*" to Gibraltar to observe the Total Solar Eclipse of that year, his duty being to take angular measurements of *Saturn* if seen through the corona, but the unpropitious weather on the day of the eclipse prevented any observation being made. In 1882 he was appointed by the Government as officer in charge of the West Indian expedition for observing the Transit of *Venus*. He was located at Barbadoes, in company with Lieut. Thomson, R.A., where he was fortunate in securing good observations of all contacts both at ingress and egress.

Mr. Talmage was for many years a member of the British Association, and regularly attended their meetings. Besides being an able microscopist, he had no mean knowledge of medicine and botany.

In the locality in which he lived Mr. Talmage was both respected and beloved. His hearty, genial, and kind disposition made him numerous friends whithersoever he went. Ever ready to afford to others all the help that was in his power, and with a happy ungrudging manner which made him deeply esteemed, it is no wonder that his untimely death has caused a wide-spread feeling of regret among those who knew him. He was taken seriously ill on February 23, 1886, and, after much suffering, died on March 20.

A memorial to him has been erected by his many friends in the church of St. Michael and All Angels, Walthamstow.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society Dec. 11, 1863.